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U.S. HISTORY: "Sisters" by Mary Cassatt; Drawing by Rebecca Cornhill & Brian Gorkov

## WALKING THE WALK: F.A.N. & WOMEN'S STUDIES HELP MAKE HISTORY

# MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES

Washington DC April 25, 2004

Sunday, April 25, 2004, 1,150,000 people gathered in front of our nation's capitol for the largest march in history—The March for Women's Lives—in support of reproductive freedom and justice for all women. At 3:00 a.m. the morning before, twenty women and one man squeezed into two vans for the twelve-hour trip to Washington, D.C.

Excitement pulsed through the group—comprised of members of FAN (Feminist Activism Network), Women's Studies minors, faculty, and staff.



Photo by Kevin Clark

^ We are here (somewhere). ^

*fibers in a carpet of people stretched for over a mile*

Months of hard work by F.A.N. in the form of yard sales, bake sales, and other fundraisers, permitted several members of their group to attend the march. F.A.N. member and Women's Studies minor/student assistant Shelly Glorioso made all the arrangements for transportation, hostel, and food for the trip. Women's Studies provided travel scholarships to our minors so that they could attend.

Want the inside story from those of us who were there? Turn to page 5 for photos, pages 3 & 6 for journals.

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### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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- Leann Farmer, *Anthropology Major*
- Angela Fetty, *WS Minor*
- Allison Harnish, *WS Minor, Contributing Writer*
- Jenna Vondran, *WS Minor*

What a learning curve this semester has been! In my role as the interim director (interim meaning temporary, as in soon-to-be-over, as in not-for-long), I have been blessed to be able to lean on the expertise of the Women's Studies office personnel, in particular our office associate, Trish Lindsey Jagers. She knows things I will never know about how the office runs. Certainly, her knowledge of web design is a wonder. Also helping to keep the office running have been our instructor, Farrah Ferriell, our faculty fellow, Barry Brunson, and our student workers, Shelly Glorioso and Preethi Sirivella. Shelly's dedication to feminism and activism gives me hope for the future of feminism.

Our special events this semester kept us busy, to be sure. On January 21st, we hit the ground running when Vanderbilt professors Alison Piepmeier and Rory Dicker came to talk about third wave feminism. A capacity crowd of students and faculty welcomed them, and a lively discussion followed the presentation. Then, on February 4th, the Women's Studies Program co-sponsored (with C.A.B.) renowned poet Nikki Giovanni who spoke to a capacity crowd at Van Meter Auditorium. Also gracing our campus on March 2nd was Cynthia Enloe whose work on gender and militarization is path-breaking (and whose good humor was a joy). In addition, the Gender Images Film Series has grown by leaps and bounds, and all three of our spring films brought in solid numbers and intriguing discussions.

This semester, I also had the pleasure of being the faculty advisor for V-Day, an annual anti-violence event that includes a presentation of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. The greatest satisfaction I received from my limited role was to watch the enthusiasm of the young women (and a few young men) involved in all aspects of the production, which filled Mass Media Auditorium on February 25th. From the actors to the directors to the producers to the ticket- and cookie-sellers, all shared a happiness and a commitment that was indeed inspiring.

I was also fortunate to preside over the annual Women's Studies Awards Luncheon. This year, for the first time, the two major awards recipients, Stacy Wilson and Alicia McDaniel, hail from Ogdon College. Stacy and Alicia both work on the Girls to Women in Science Project. It is so important to expand the work of women's studies beyond the traditional disciplines and to become as inclusive as we can in bringing a contemporary understanding of feminism to our campus and our world.

Finally, I am pleased that Western was well represented by those who attended the April 25th March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. Riding all day and all night in rented vans to get to Washington to participate in the largest mass demonstration in U.S. history, the members of F.A.N. and the WS minors, faculty and staff, made me proud to be part of a program that has done so much to bring focus to the vital issues affecting women's lives.

With that, I sign off as the "interim" director—and look forward to my return to civilian life, as a member of the women's studies faculty and committees.

—Kathryn Abbott

## Et cetera

*Perspectives* is published twice yearly—spring and fall terms—by the Women's Studies Program.

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## TALKING THE TALK

Our spring semester nearly burst with speakers and events—even a march on the nation's capitol! In brief:

### January

"Catching a Wave: Third Wave Feminism," Alison Piepmeier & Rory Dicker shed some light on what is the new "third wave," and why the third wave is an important element in the feminist movement.

**Rape Is:** Molly Kerby introduced this eye-opening film to an almost-paeked MMTM auditorium and led the discussion afterward.

### February

**Nikki Giovanni:** this exciting poet, author, and activist was brought to Western by CAB, with assistance from Women's Studies.

**V-Day Western Kentucky University 2004:** another successful V-Day event filled MMTM to the rafters! WS students organized and produced this program to raise awareness of, and help end violence against women and children. Proceeds from the event totaling \$2,505.41 were donated to Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc., a domestic violence shelter & program.

### March

**Cynthia Enloe:** Her talk, "Why Does the Pentagon Worry So Much About Women? Some Feminist Clues," provided insight to the military's ongoing cultivation of "woman-friendly" campaign ads—with the belief that women influence many men's decisions about whether to join and, more importantly, to reenlist in the military. Women's presence in the armed forces, Enloe said, remains token, at best. (See story, page 3.)

**Rosie the Riveter:** Kathryn Abbott, History, WS Interim Director, introduced this film about the "life and times" of Rosie the Riveter to an eager crowd at MMTM auditorium. The film provided a historical and critical look at women's entrance into the industrial workforce, (with a focus on the generalization of the term "skill"), spurred by the vacancies created when men went to war, and the subsequent "ousting" of the now self-sufficient, wage-earning, skilled women at the end of the war.

### April

**Women's Studies Awards Luncheon & Ceremony:** (See page 4.)

**Whole Rider:** Introduced by Dr. Kate Hudepohl, Anthropology  
**generations Colloquia Series:** (See page 6.)

I read and walked for miles at night along the beach, writing bad blank verse and searching endlessly for someone wonderful who would step out of the darkness and change my life. It never crossed my mind that that person could be me.  
Anna Quindlen

## We are . . .

**Jane Olmsted, Director**

**Trish Lindsey Jagers, Office Associate**

**Farrah Ferriell, WS Instructor**

**Barry Brunson, Faculty Fellow**

**Shelly Glorioso, Student Office Assistant**

**Preethi Sirivella, Graduate Assistant**

## CYNTHIA ENLOW

### "WHY DOES THE PENTAGON WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT WOMEN?"

Cynthia Enlow, Political Science professor and author of various feminist novels, including *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics and Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*, made a memorable appearance on Western's campus Tuesday, March 2. The evening began with a roundtable discussion in the Fine Arts Center at 4 pm, proceeded into a lecture in the Mass Media and Technology Auditorium, and ended with a coffee house chat in the Women's Studies Center.

During the roundtable discussion, Enlow made a point to involve the audience in her lesson by asking questions and relating the topic at hand to local situations and institutions. For example, Enlow used the Fruit of the Loom factory in Bowling Green to illustrate her theories on the feminization of cheap labor. According to her, there is no such thing as cheap labor, rather labor is made cheap through a process of increasing production, reducing

benefits, internalizing worthlessness within employees, making the job appear temporary, and making the women workers to feel that their labor is not skillful.

Enlow's arguments were astounding and persuasive, especially for a group of history students who were reading one of her books for their class. Chris Steffan, a sophomore in Dr. Formes' Sex and Power course,

*"... There is no such thing as cheap labor; rather, labor is made cheap through a process of increasing production, reducing benefits, internalizing worthlessness..."*

was skeptical about Enlow's philosophies on militarization. But after hearing her speak, he was more accepting and appreciative of her book *Maneuvers*. Enlow was very effective in helping students understand her work. When questioned about some of the points in her book, she explained them in a way that made more sense to me.

That night, her presentation addressed the newest concerns that the government and, particularly, the military have regarding women's "power over" men in the armed

forces—with particular emphasis given to mothers and spouses—women who are *not* in the military. Where, before, ads for armed services were directed at the prospective enlistee, now the target has shifted—to the women in these men's lives. More often than not, if women are not impressed by the "sell tactics" of the ads, their dissatisfaction will directly influence the men in their lives—which could subsequently reduce the number of men entering armed forces. Even though the number of women enlisted has risen—Enlow also underscored the under-representation of women enrolled in active duty.

Overall, Enlow's presentation over the military's "woman concern" was received well by her audience, and I found her to be a very intriguing individual. I was impressed by the effort she made to familiarize herself with the area as well as how eager she was to get to know those around her. I truly enjoyed the Cynthia Enlow experience and look forward to the Women's Studies Program hosting such a warm and caring individual again soon on our campus.

By Allison Harnish, WS minor

"The trip to Mars can only be understood by Black Americans," Nikki Giovanni said to the crowd gathered in Van Meter Auditorium. Then she read her poem "Quilting the Black-eyed Pea," a poem that deals with being ousted from one's homeland, held captive, with no frame of reference, no visual cues. Without these visual markers, Giovanni explained, one has no sense of place. On ships bound for America, slaves lost sight of land markers and found themselves in an alien environment. Survival depended on reestablishing identifiable markers and taking possession of them. African Americans still

must erect markers and lay claim to them. Thus, a trip to Mars, according to Giovanni, the experience of being on alien soil, of being an alien oneself, could best be handled by Black Americans.

## Nikki Giovanni

Giovanni, a powerful speaker and poet, treated the audience to several of her latest pieces, as well as a few jokes and anecdotes. Following the presentation, two lines wrapped around the entrance hall of Van Meter as she signed books and posters. Nikki Giovanni was brought to Western Kentucky University by Campus Activities Board, with assistance from the Women's Studies Program.

### "March for Women's Lives" Journals, *Cont'd on page 6*

#### DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Goosebumps formed on my arms; I need to live in a place like this. A place where you can walk down the street and see democracy in action. Pumped with adrenaline, we began our march for women's rights. It wasn't long before we hit crowds of anti-choicers. Some of them scared me. There were also anti-choice activists who actually threw ink filled eggs at the marchers. I have to admit, anger overpowered me when I saw signs that actually compared abortion to the Holocaust. How dare they compare our two! I shook my signs and yelled right back at them. We chanted our motto the loudest when surrounded by the anti-choice crowd.

#### More comments:

**Katie Ciehlinski:** "My community of feminists grew from a wonderfully passionate, yet small, group of people to a massive, diverse population from all over the world!"

**Shelly Glorioso:** "Nothing compares to dressing up as a pirate and marching in D.C. I can only hope to again come close to the overwhelming joy felt as I chanted that the current administration would 'walk the plank' for pirating women's lives."

We yelled things like, "My body my choice!" and "Hey hey, ho ho, George Bush has got to go!"

I'll never forget the empowerment and the strength of the women and men who participated that day. We were all there to prove a point, and I believe it was a huge success. Before and after the march I heard some very inspirational speakers including Hillary Clinton, who urged us to go out and vote. There were millions of women in 2000 eligible to vote who did not. Unfortunately, I was one of them. I regret my apathy, and I will definitely be at the precinct this November.

By Catherine Damron, Student

**Cheyenne Hohman:** Thanks to being a WS minor, I became a part of women's history, which I can't say about any other field I've studied.

**Trish Lindsey Jagers:** We must reclaim the term "pro-life" because pro-choice doesn't mean "anti-life"; it means pro-life for women and children, with the equal right to choose for all. Our first choice should be to vote. A single voice matters. Make yours heard!

# WOMEN'S STUDIES AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004, WOMEN'S STUDIES HELD ITS ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON IN THE GARRETT BALLROOM.



**Kathryn Abbott**, interim director, delivers remarks at the ceremony.



**John Reiss** accepts the *Catherine Coogan Ward Feminist Action Award* on behalf of **Stacy Wilson**.



**Alicia McDaniel** received the *Seneca Falls Personal Empowerment Award*, presented by **Lowell Shank**.



**Misty York** (left) receives *WS Graduate Scholarship*; **Shelly Glorioso** (center) and **Katie Cielinski** (right) receive the *Valere Scott Scholarship*. All presented by **Richard Wilson**.

**Lindsey Ransdell** receives the *Catherine Coogan Ward Scholarship*, presented by **Richard Wilson**.



Some **Friends of Women's Studies** attended the awards luncheon.



Two undergraduates tied for the *Women's Studies Feminist Writing Award*: **Crystal Fodrey** (right), for her poem "Melt," & **Charles Howard III**, for his poem "Clemensky Strikes Back." Presented by **Dale Rigby** (not shown). The English Dept. co-sponsored the award.



## WALKING THE WALK: WS & FAN MEMBERS MARCH ON D.C.



Photos & "March" design by Trish Lindsey Jagers

Stop by the Women's Studies Center and check out our bulletin board—full of color photos from the march!



~Pix from the Spring 2004 *generations* Colloquia Series . . .  
~Marchers' Journals from the "March for Women's Lives"

generations



Andee Rudloff



Heather Pulliam



Aaron Hughey

Sandra Starks

Photos by Trish Lindsey Jagers

## "MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES" JOURNALS

### LIFTING SIGNS, RAISING VOICES & CONSCIOUSNESS

About a year ago, I received an email from NOW, about a huge reproductive rights march that was being planned for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Washington, D.C. As soon as I read that email, I made a promise to myself, and to women all over the world, that I would attend this march—with bells on. Thanks to travel funds from Women's Studies, I found myself in the middle of democracy. Signs rose above voices. One sign that caught my eye, "I'm a pro-choice republican," showed that republicans agree with a woman's right to choose. My views on politics and women's issues have changed dramatically over the past four years. Growing up, I was very much against abortion and believed it should be illegal. But then I realized that being pro-choice doesn't mean you love the idea of abortion. It means

### I'M CATHOLIC; I'M PRO-CHOICE

I have struggled with the whole idea of "pro-choice" and "pro-life" most of my life. I was raised Roman Catholic and constantly assaulted with messages like "Adoption not Abortion" and "Choose Life." Yet, on the other hand, I became involved in the women's movement in the 1970s and worked for a feminist organization in the early 1980s in New York City. The never-ending issue and polarization of abortion became a problematic point placing me in the middle of what I always saw as an unnecessary political debate that pitted religion against State.

In the surprising way that life unfolds, I ended up agreeing to drive one of the university vans to D.C. I paid my registration the next week, and it was set. I, a cradle-born Roman Catholic, was going to Washington to march in a pro-choice rally! What would my mother think? During the weeks to follow I had to come to terms with some of those issues I had chose not to face about abortion. Could I possibly be Catholic, or even a Christian for that matter, and still be "pro-choice"? How can I be an effective women's studies instructor and be "pro-life"? I put all of my apprehension in check, set my alarm for 1:30 am on April 24, met the army of eager young

### THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE

A march volunteer shouts in her megaphone, "Show me what democracy looks like!" Chills of excitement run down my body and warmth fills my spirit as I shout back with the 1000's of people surrounding me, "This is what democracy looks like!"

I think to myself, this is what democracy looks like: 1.15 million people gathering together for the March for Women's Lives to advocate reproductive freedom; to say yes to CHOICE, to say no to the global gag rule; to demand safe, affordable, and accessible birth control (of all forms); to tell our government that sex education should be one of the priorities in our children's schools; and to remind our government that women are not

that you believe that every woman should have the opportunity to choose for herself if—and when—she will have children.

The march also emphasized the importance of voting and making sure people were registered to vote. This is something that is very important to keeping and advancing reproductive freedoms. Getting people registered and motivating people to vote is something FAN will be working on in the fall. We need to keep the vibe of the march going, by raising awareness here on campus and in the Bowling Green community. So if you, or someone you know, are not registered to vote, take control of your body and your voice. Register. VOTE!

Jenna Vondran, *WS Minor*

feminists at the Women's Studies Center, and headed for Washington, D.C.

Though I have attended protests in the past, I have never been involved in a march of this magnitude. It was astronomical! And, quite frankly, was the most inspirational event I have ever attended. As one of our students put it, "it was like being with a million of your closest friends." I do not think that anyone at the event will ever look at the issue of abortion the same again. In searching for a way to summarize my feelings on abortion, I came upon the following rather contemporary definition:

Pro-choice: "a political view that believes that abortion should continue to be legal and accessible. Pro-choice is not necessarily pro-abortion, but merely being in support of a woman's having the option available. People who follow this view would not necessarily opt for abortion themselves, but do not wish to deny others the option. *Pro-choice is not an antithesis to pro-life; while the pro-life view would force women to give birth, pro-choice would not force them to abort.*" (<http://www.urbandictionary.com>)

Molly Kerby, *Public Health*

going to tolerate our bodies being political terrain.

I have learned a valuable piece of wisdom by participating in this historical event—have faith in democracy. Social inequalities persist, poverty plagues our people, but democracy will bring us justice. I have faith in feminists to exercise democracy as it is meant to be implemented—being involved in our communities and our government, voicing our concerns, and demanding EQUALITY and CHOICE and accepting nothing less. So, show me what democracy looks like—and get active—NOW!

Farrah Ferriell, *Women's Studies Instructor*

More "Journals" on page 3



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